

Employee Free Choice Act Pending in Congress would Remove Barriers to Local Workers Forming a Union



SACRAMENTO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, chair of the Commission for Economic Development and a former State Insurance Commissioner, joined hundreds of working families and labor activists at a State Capitol rally today backing the Employee Free Choice Act.

"It is time for a change, because the working men and women of America and the working men and women of California have taken the short end of the paycheck for too long," Garamendi said. "In 1965, the CEOs had a ratio of 24:1 on their paycheck. What happened in the ensuing years? In 1980, it went to \$42 for the CEO and \$1 for working men and women. In 2006, what happened? It went to \$364 for every dollar you earn."

EFCA, now pending in Congress, would modernize federal labor laws, removing barriers that prevent local workers from organizing employees. Under present law, when labor organizers gather the support of 30 percent of the workforce via a majority sign-up process (also known as a "card check"), employers have the ability to call for a secret election instead of allowing the card check process to continue. EFCA does not preclude secret elections but instead puts the power to call secret elections in the hands of workers and not employers.

In addition, EFCA would:



3.17.09: Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi Joins Working Families to Rally Support for Employee Free